



## UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

June 21, 2006

## MEMORANDUM

To: Campus Planning Committee (CPC)

From: Christine Taylor Thompson, Planning Associate  
University Planning

Subject: **Record of the May 25, 2006 CPC Meeting**

Attending: Gregg Lobisser (Acting Chair), Virginia Cartwright, Nancy Cheng, Patti Hachten, Bill Harbaugh, Dennis Munroe, Steve Pickett, Andrzej Proskurowski, Chris Ramey, Greg Stripp, Rob Thallon

Guests: Charles Brucker (Walker Macy), Jonah Cohen (Thomas Hacker), Thomas Hacker (Thomas Hacker), Elaine Jones (Education), Tim King (Facilities Services), Douglas Macy (Walker Macy), Jarvis Payne (Walker Macy)

Staff: Christine Thompson (University Planning)

**1. Campus Planning Committee - Chair Election**

Background: Staff explained that the CPC chair is either a member who will be serving the second year of his/her two-year appointment or a new member who has previously served on the committee.

Discussion: A member nominated Carole Daly to serve as the committee's 2006-2007 chair. In Carole's absence, staff conveyed Carole's nomination acceptance. Staff said Carole is happy to serve as chair for another year, but she is also more than willing to give another member the opportunity.

Action: The committee unanimously elected Carole Daly to serve as the 2006-2007 Campus Planning Committee chair.

**2. College of Education Additions and Alterations Project – Check in**

Background: Staff reviewed the committee's past involvement and input as described in the meeting mailing.

Chris Ramey reviewed the project background and schedule. Jonah Cohen of Thomas Hacker Architects explained that construction costs have increased

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substantially since the budget was established. Therefore, they will refine the project's program before moving ahead with design work.

Thomas Hacker, project architect said the purpose of the meeting was to hear the committee's comments and ideas about the proposed site and the campus as it relates to this project.

Jonah reviewed the project's key large-scale campus and site arrangement patterns as described in the meeting mailing. He added that another primary goal is to achieve a high level of universal design. The goal is to eliminate existing barriers to access and provide clear accessible paths from parking to buildings and between buildings.

Discussion: A member said establishing accessible routes would be a challenge due to substantial elevation changes throughout the site. He added that shelter from inclement weather should be considered when designing accessible pathways.

As Tom explained the goal is to provide accessible routes via ramps that do not require rails. Buildings can be used to transition steep grades. Properly placed entrances and elevators would provide access for local and general users throughout the site.

Tom said establishing a main entrance is a primary project goal. Ways to accomplish this may be by better aligning auto entrances with the city street grid, establishing better visual connections along Alder Street, and creating a more generous gateway. A member said street reconfiguration proposals must account for the substantial pedestrian and bike traffic on Alder Street.

Tom agreed with a member that auto access to Beall Hall must be retained. In addition, establishing a view of Beall Hall is important. However, it is also important to create a cohesive design for the College of Education that spans this auto/view axis.

The project landscape consultants questioned the possibility of building along Alder Street. A member said the elevated green space west of the Education Building is not accessible and perhaps is a luxury we can no longer afford. Building on the street edge may be essential to ensure campus open spaces are preserved. At best, the opportunity to build along the street edge in the future should be preserved.

Another member said it would be ideal if both the Southwest Campus Axis and the street edge could be better defined by new construction. In response to Tom's question about which is more important, members agreed that it is most important to address the inner campus edge, the Southwest Campus Axis. A member explained that is the direction from which most students are coming. It is essential to establish a strong campus image and front door when approaching from the main campus (east). A member added that by improving the center of campus and then moving outward will establish a strong central structure upon which to build in the future.

A member said the renovation and new construction need to foster

community within the College of Education. Existing and new buildings need to work together.

A member said a defined gateway element would help southwest campus feel like a part of campus. Currently there is a perception that this part of campus is further away than it really is because pedestrian access is disconnected from the main campus. A pedestrian either has to travel through the “public” realm (Kincaid Street) or on a narrow path on the back side of buildings along the edge of the cemetery to reach southwest campus. The Kincaid Street entrance could be better connected to southwest campus by opening the north/south connection through the east wing of the Education building as originally intended in the 1980 remodel. Another idea would be to remove the zigzag wall, which is not very inviting.

The landscape consultant said that because of the restricted long axial views to main campus it may be more effective to create a series of linkages, moving people from point-to-point. A member added that campus users tend to use the eastern connection behind the Knight Library and Gerlinger Annex because they do not have to leave campus.

A member said fixing the feeling of separation from the main campus may be outside of the project scope, but the design could support and recommend potential future solutions. Another member added that it might be necessary to expand the project parameters to at least consider larger master plan issues to ensure that proposed designs do not preclude future improvements.

In response to Tom’s question about outdoor space needs, members said the existing Education courtyard space serves exterior meeting and gather needs quite well. In addition, perhaps there is potential to establish more seating near the Southwest Campus Green to draw people into the open space. However, its current size and design, which intentionally serves multi-purpose recreational use and graduation ceremonies, should not be impaired. In addition, the Southwest Campus Axis should serve the role as an inviting open space with seating areas.

Tom asked for feedback about establishing a formal plaza at the north end of the Southwest Campus Axis to serve as a major gathering place, intersection of circulation paths, and connection to new buildings. He said the User Group supports the idea. Members said this was a viable idea, adding that it could also help define the corner of the Southwest Campus Green. A member noted that the Education Annex may present a challenge, however. Another member added that the plaza should be sunny.

Tom confirmed that the existing trailers along Alder Street will be removed. In addition, the houses at the corner of Alder Street and 18th Avenue are all potentially part of the development site. A member said it is understood that not all desired improvements will be possible. It is better to building quality buildings and landscapes versus trying to partially fix all areas of the Southwest Campus. This may mean it is not possible to address the corner of 18th Avenue and Alder Street.

Chris explained that the original conceptual design proposed all replacement parking under the new building, but costs will not allow this. Other areas of

surface parking will be required. A member said the project should retain the amount of existing parking but also leave potential options to build a future parking structure.

In response to a question about establishing a coffee shop, a member warned against having too many eateries on campus. The consultants said a study will help to determine whether this idea is viable. A guest added that the College of Education has much higher night and weekend use that would benefit from an on-site eatery.

Action: No formal action was required. The committee comments will be taken into consideration as the project moves forward.

Please contact this office if you have questions.

cc. Becca Cavell, Thomas Hacker Architects  
Elaine Jones, Education (User Group Chair)  
Tim King, Facilities Services  
Janet Lobue, Facilities Services  
Steve Nystrom, Eugene Planning  
Janet Stewart, School of Music  
Jeanne Wagenknecht, College of Business (University Senate)  
Andrea Wiggins, Education